

REMARKS

The indication that claims 13-25 have been allowed and that claims 6-8, 12, 28, 32-35, and 40 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claims 6, 12, 28, 32, and 40 have been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of the respective intervening claims. Claims 1-5, 9-11, 26-27, 29-31, and 36-39 have been canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 4, 9-11, 26, 31, 36, and 38-39 were rejected as unpatentable over NAKAYA et al. 5,458,213 in view of OLIVER 3,794,353. Claims 2-3, 27, 29-30, and 37 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of DENNERT et al. 6,846,018 and claim 5 was rejected further in view of FUKUNAGA et al. 6,332,625. These claims have been canceled and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

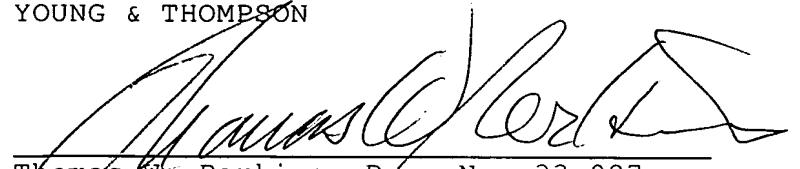
Please charge the fee of \$300 for the three extra independent claims added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON


Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lk